

ITEM: 29

SUBJECT: Gilbert Alston, John Alston and Elsie Sewald, DBA Alston Farms Dairy No. 2, Tehama County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of adoption of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and individual Waste Discharge Requirements for a confined animal facility.*

BACKGROUND: Gilbert Alston leases the Alston Farms Dairy No. 2 from Elsie Sewald. In addition, land owned by John Alston is incorporated into Alston Farms Dairy No. 2. The facility is located in Orland in Tehama County and has not been operated as a dairy since 2002. The Alstons have proposed to reopen the facility as a dairy. Since it was not operating as a dairy in 2005, it was not covered under the General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies. Individual Waste Discharge Requirements are required for any dairy that was not operating as of 17 October 2005.

Alston Farms Dairy No. 2 operated as a dairy from 1976 until 2002. Since 2002, the facility has been rangeland. The maximum herd size (Jerseys) at the dairy after operation begins will be 850 animals: 400 milking cows, and up to 450 dry cows and bred heifers. There will be no calves housed at the dairy. The dairy includes a milking parlor, freestall barns, corrals, room for future manure storage and drying areas, a wastewater storage lagoon, and feed storage areas. Wastewater is land-applied to 158.8 of the 517 acres for agricultural production. Solid manure is used on 92.2 acres of cropland and onsite as bedding.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board was the lead agency for CEQA. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the project and circulated through the California State Clearing House on 19 February 2009. The final Mitigated Negative Declaration will be adopted by the Central Valley Water Board at the same time as the Waste Discharge Requirements.

As part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Discharger is required to install a synthetic liner in the existing wastewater storage lagoon or install a new lined lagoon by 31 December 2009. At present, the Discharger intends to use the current wastewater lagoon until a new lagoon with a liner can be installed. The new lagoon or lining of the existing lagoon will be designed and constructed to meet the requirements set forth in the Order.

These Waste Discharge Requirements will permit Alston Farms Dairy No. 2 to operate as a dairy once again and to house the number of cows allowed under the approved Mitigated Negative Declaration. The facilities constructed at the dairy are all sized to house the number of animals allowed under the Mitigated Negative

Declaration. A Report of Waste Discharge dated 4 March 2008 has been submitted for the dairy. Additional information has been submitted to the Regional Board including portions of the Nutrient Management Plan, a Waste Management Plan, and a Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling Plan.

ISSUES: The CEQA documentation was circulated through the California State Clearing House on 19 February 2009. A draft of the Waste Discharge Requirements was sent out for public review on 26 February 2009. No comments were received on the CEQA documentation or on the draft WDRs.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed waste discharge requirements.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

23/24 April 2009  
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670